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NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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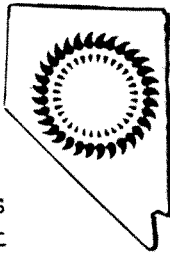
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SYNOPSIS

For the sixth straight month temperatures averaged above normal in Northwestern Nevada, while the remainder of the State was near normal. No new State records were set, although some locations topped or neared their previous August maximum temperature.

As is usually the case during this summer showery month, 222 precipitation was highly erratic, with one site receiving significant rainfall, while a nearby location had none.

With only one month to go in the 1989-90 Water Year, August precipitation caused no important change in the overall pattern--well below normal in the West and South Central regions of Nevada, and below normal in much of the Northeast and South.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures during the first half of August were (the month was) much warmer than normal, while the second half-month was generally cooler than normal. Most rainfall also occurred after mid-month. The final result of the mid-month temperature switch was that most locations in the State had monthly averages very near normal. Only a portion of the Northwest was more than two degrees above normal.

New August high temperature records were set at Minden where Ted Hendrick's 105 degree reading topped the 102 degrees of 1929, in a record that goes back to 1906. The 96 degrees at Gibbs Ranch, north of Wells, broke the 1985 August high of 95 degrees, in a 38 year long record. Other locations scored near misses during the hot first half of the month, with Farnes Egbert at Metropolis (also north of Wells) only 2 degrees off the August record of 99; the Desert National Wildlife Refuge at Corn Creek, north of Las Vegas, also 2 degrees shy with a 110 degree reading, and Honey Lake Fleming 104 degrees, with a 33 year long August record of 105 degrees. Some other hot locations were Silverpeak at 110 degrees, Smoke Creek Espil (near Gerlach), and the North Las Vegas Fire Department 108 degrees, Leonard Creek Ranch (South of Denio) and the Paris Ranch (east of Lovelock) 107 degrees, Kings River Ranch (east of Denio) 106 degrees, and Gabbs and Golconda, 105 degrees. The usual hot spots were along the Colorado River and around Lake Mead, where Cottonwood Cove topped the State with 116 degrees on the 4th, closely followed by Laughlin at 115 degrees, Logandale and Boulder Beach at 114 degrees, and Amargosa Farms, Callville Bay, and Overton Beach all with 113 degrees. The State record for August in 120 degrees set at several locations several times.

On the cooler side, Pine Valley Bailey fell to 21 degrees, with high 20's recorded at Manhattan, McDermitt, Deeth and Reese

River O'Toole. The all time August State low was 15 degrees at Charleston, (Northeast of Elko) in 1964.

PRECIPITATION

Summer thunderstorms scattered here and there resulted in a typical uneven percentage of normal precipitation map, with for example, no rain at Las Vegas Airport and 2.95" (wettest reported in the State this month) just a few miles away at Overton Beach. In fact, 2.82" of the Overton Beach total fell the afternoon of the 16th. In the nearby Spring Mountains at 8300 foot Lee Canyon Steve Brittingham recorded 2.25", with 1.01" in a half hour on the 11th. Other wet locations were Valley of Fire State Park with 1.83" and 1.64" on the 16th, Logandale 1.70" and 1.54" on the 16th, Belmont 1.68" and Diamond Valley 1.57". In the far north, Donna Andrews measured 1.81" at Contact, Marianne Bloom 1.10" at Jackpot, Robert and Doris Karsteadt 1.17" at Jarbidge, and Betsy Williams .73" four miles north of Jarbidge. In the east Robert Bransford had an above normal 1.04" at Shoshone (southeast of Ely), while across the State at Lida, Jack Vogt was also wet with .67".

SUNSHINE, WIND AND EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were near normal in the South, where Las Vegas had 86% of the possible hours versus an 88% average, but below normal in the remainder of the State (e.g. Reno had 78% and a normal of 93%).

It was a windier than normal month at most locations, with thunderstorm winds reaching near 60 mph in Northwest Reno, Tonopah, and between Carson City and Fallon. Mountain top winds reached 64 mph at 8400 foot Peavine Mountain near Reno on the 8th.

Evaporation was generally a little below normal this month at the 12 Nevada measurement points. Silverpeak topped the list with 15.35" of pan evaporation, followed by 14.34" at Boulder City, 12.31 at Pahrump, 12.06 at Logandale, and 10.03 at Fallon Experimental Farm. Other readings were 9.25" at Honey Lake Fleming, 9.16" at Ruby Valley, 9.15" at Reno UNR, 8.66" at Beowawe Gund Ranch, 8.40" at Rye Patch Dam, 8.22" at Minden, and 7.80" at Diamond Valley.

NOTE 1: What are Nevada's high in elevation Climate data measurement points? The storage precipitation gage at 9875 foot Wheeler Camp in Great Basin National Park is the highest, with 9640 foot Slide Mountain's automatic weather station a close second. Just across the western border of Nevada near Dyer in the White Mountains, the University of California has for many years maintained a seasonal climate station at 12,700 foot Barcroft Laboratory. This is the highest manned station in the United States.

NOTE 2: Knowledge of Nevada's precipitation is greatly enhanced by once a year readings from storage gages located in remote areas. Over 30 of these gages are extant in the Silver State, most being maintained by the Division of Water Resources in Carson City and Las Vegas, with some the responsibility of the State Climate Office. As this information may be useful to many people, and because it is no longer published in the open literature, data from these gages will be listed each year in this Summary. This month we include the Southern Nevada storage gage data for the past two years. Next month's report will list Northern Nevada information.

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SOUTHERN NEVADA
STORAGE GAGE PRECIPITATION

	<u>Elevation</u>	<u>July 1988- July 1989</u>	<u>July 1989- July 1990</u>	<u>1961-1989 Average</u>
KYLE CANYON	7500'	17.55"	15.15"	20.19"
NE NW S32, T19S, R57E				
LEE CANYON	8400'	18.65"	17.35"	21.51"
SE NW S2, T19S, R56E				
COLD CREEK CANYON	7400'	16.45"	15.45"	15.50"
NE NW S13, T18S, R55E				
UPPER WILLIAMS RANCH	6000'	12.95"	11.60"	13.00"
SW NE S27, T20S, R56E				
ROBERTS RANCH	6000'	11.85"	11.30"	13.17"
NE SW S34, T20S, R57E				
SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RANCH	4000'	8.60"	7.25"	10.75"
Park Service				
SE NW S3, T21S, R58E				
MCCULLOUGH PASS	3768'	3.40"	5.45"	5.98"
NW NW S33, T25S, R61E				
BUNKERVILLE MOUNTAIN	3250'	3.90"	7.95"	6.17"
SW NE S20, T15S, R70E				
ADAMS RANCH	9050'	17.70"	15.65"	20.89"
SE SE S6, T19S, R56E				
WHEELER PASS	7683'	11.95"	13.90"	14.32"
NW NW S16, T18S, R56E				

Data From: Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Division of Water Resources
Southern Nevada Branch
Las Vegas

Averages From: Nevada State Climatology Office

